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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate the citizens of the
4 City of Champaign on the occasion of the city's 150th
5 anniversary; and

6 WHEREAS, The rich history of the City of Champaign began on
7 April 20, 1860, when the citizens of the area formerly known as
8 West Urbana voted to incorporate as Champaign City; on March
9 25, 1861, the citizens of Champaign City voted to approve the
10 first charter for the City of Champaign, which was subsequently
11 approved by the State of Illinois; and

12 WHEREAS, Since its founding, the City of Champaign has
13 proven to be a vital asset to the State of Illinois and its
14 residents; centered in Champaign in the 1860s and later, the
15 Illinois Central Railroad contributed to the great
16 colonization and commerce within the State of Illinois and the
17 nation at large; in 1867, the Illinois House of Representatives
18 approved the Champaign County site for the Illinois Industrial
19 University, now the University of Illinois, which has become a
20 world leader in research, teaching, and public engagement; and

21 WHEREAS, Over the years, the City of Champaign has been led
22 by an able group of mayors, city council members, city

1 managers, and other employees retained by them to accomplish
2 the goals and ensure the prosperity of the city and the welfare
3 of its citizens; the city also contains numerous business
4 institutions, civic institutions, churches, historic
5 landmarks, labor unions, societies, and clubs, which have all
6 contributed to the rich fabric of the State over the city's 150
7 year history; and

8 WHEREAS, The City of Champaign's educational endeavors to
9 develop successful students and citizens of character are
10 reflected in the Champaign Unit 4 School District's commitment
11 to providing dynamic, resource-rich learning environments,
12 abundant community partnerships, and annual support for
13 exceeding exam averages on the State and national level; the
14 city is also home to the third largest community college
15 district in Illinois, Parkland College, which is known for its
16 excellent academic standards, innovative programs, and quality
17 instruction; and

18 WHEREAS, The City of Champaign is a nationally recognized
19 multi-award winning quality parks and recreation community;
20 the city's Champaign Park District boasts more than 60 parks
21 totaling over 650 acres and over 1,200 special events and
22 program offerings annually; and

23 WHEREAS, The City of Champaign has been the home to and

1 nurtured notable athletes, authors, educators, engineers,
2 architects, inventors, physicians, persons prominent in the
3 media, musicians, artists, Olympians, scientists, prominent
4 elected officials, civic leaders, military heroes, and persons
5 dedicated to the social well-being of the city, the State of
6 Illinois, and the nation at large; and

7 WHEREAS, In March of 2010, the City of Champaign launched a
8 year-long celebration in honor of its 150th anniversary, which
9 has included a three-week historical display of Champaign
10 history and an extensive music festival and birthday salute to
11 Champaign; to culminate the celebration year, the city has
12 planned a community-driven "Letters to the Future" project,
13 youth art exhibit, and Legacy/Time Capsule Dedication Ceremony
14 for Spring 2011; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
16 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we congratulate the citizens of the City of Champaign on the
18 occasion of the city's 150th anniversary and wish them success
19 and happiness in the future; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to Gerald Schwieghart, Mayor of the City of
22 Champaign, as a symbol of our esteem and respect.